

My interest in these families began with a search for all the details of the fate of John Collins, Jr. and his wife Mary Goddard.

Long hours have I sat in the house of "Aunt Em" Jordan and listened to her tell of life on the farm in Hailstone and Jordanelle and the story of her mother, Mary Goddard, losing her new husband with the "cholera" while aboard ship, on the Atlantic Ocean, on the way to America from England. She ("Aunt Em") said her mother would tell the story with tears in her eyes that he was buried at sea (Atlantic Ocean).

Another story is told in the Collins family in Provo that he was buried in a shallow grave west of Hams Fork, Wyoming. We are sure now that this was his father John Collins, Sr. husband of Priscilla Shefford.

The next thing to do is to actually get hold of a daily diary by some member of that company and perhaps this will be found in the files of the Church Historian's Office in Salt Lake City or in a ship's log. The ship, American Congress, sailed 23 1864.

As I dug deeper and deeper into the histories of John Collins, Sr. and John Collins, Jr. I became aware that there has never been a complete story written on the history of Hailstone, Keetley, Jordanelle, Moultonville, Riverdale, etc.

So I am now compiling this story, trying to recapture the lives and times of these early settlers and making record of their kith and descendants to date.

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1. yrs ago the Collins family in Iowa had the tradition that John Collins Jr was buried somewhere in Wyoming or on the plains coming West.

This was substantiated by an article by Ann Sophia Collins Beck Holliday in Kate & Porter's series of books "Our Pioneer Heritage", Vol 16: pp 468-470, stating that John Collins Jr died within a few days travel of Salt Lake City.

This same, well-meaning lady also placed a similar history in the Daughters of Pioneers Museum Archives May 1970.

R. K. Green M.D. claimed under this "tradition" until he moved to Heber City, Utah & became acquainted - Aunt Emma Davis Gordon who was well acquainted - Mary Gordon Collins Davis the original John Collins Jr widow - mother to Emma Davis Jordan.

"Aunt Em" told & retold me on many visits & is quite true - her mother shared with me the story of how & where her husband died on the Atlantic Ocean & was buried at sea in 1844, about 2 weeks sailing from England on the ship "Hudson".

Now, the completed story of John Collins Jr & John Davis are assembled in this book by Dr Robert Raymond Green this 5th Day of July 2000 AD.

RKG